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Age and sex structure: Subprovincial, 2010

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Report on the Demographic Situation in Canada

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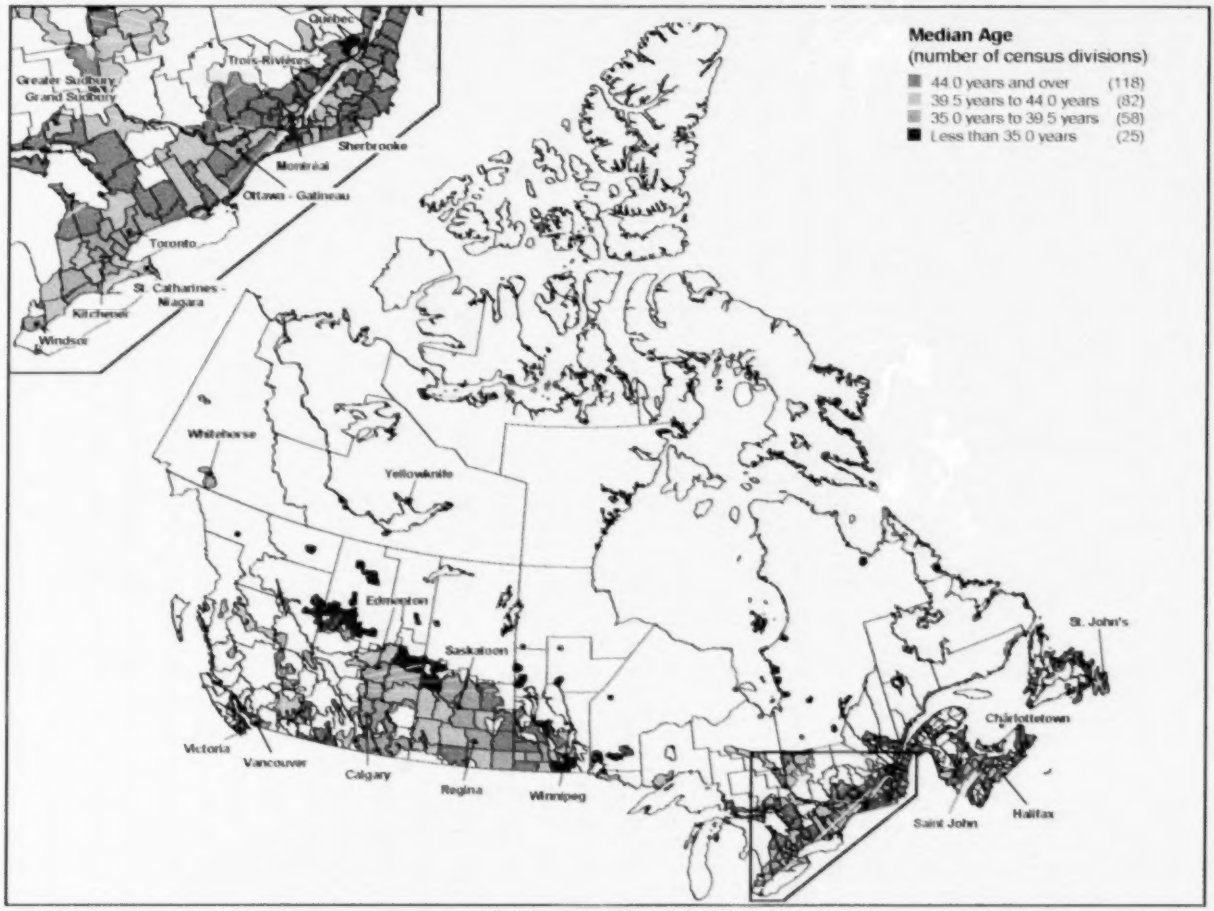
.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p}	preliminary
^{r}	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E}	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

Age and sex structure: Subprovincial, 2010

This section on the age and sex structure of the different regions of Canada (subprovincial level) examines the indicators of median age—the age at which half the population is older and half is younger—as well as the distribution of the population at particular age groups, especially seniors aged 65 years and over and children aged 14 years and under.

On July 1, 2010 Canada had a median age of 39.7 years. At the subprovincial level, however, some areas had a median age that was either younger or older than that of the country overall (Figure 1). Census divisions with younger median ages generally had large Aboriginal populations. Six of the seven youngest census divisions were in Nunavut and Manitoba, with the youngest being Keewatin, Nunavut with a median age of 22.7 years. Because of the Aboriginal population's higher fertility rate, young people accounted for a substantial share of the population, which kept the median age low. In contrast, some areas had median ages that were much older than the total

Figure 1
Median age as of July 1, 2010 by census division (CD), Canada



Note: Preliminary postcensal estimates.
Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Canadian population, sometimes exceeding 50 years. The oldest census division was Mékinac, Quebec which had a median age of 51.9 years. Net out-migration of younger people and/or net in-migration of older people contributed to the rate of population aging in some census divisions.

Census metropolitan areas are aging, but more slowly than the rest of Canada

Compared with a median age of 39.7 years for Canada as a whole on July 1, 2010, the median age for the population living in one of Canada's 33 census metropolitan areas was 38.7 years and in non-census metropolitan areas it was 42.3 years (Table 1). Although aging affects all parts of Canada, it is not occurring uniformly across the country. For example, the population was aging faster in non-census metropolitan areas than in census metropolitan areas, given that the increase in the median age since July 1, 2001 was twice as large in non-census metropolitan areas (+4.1 years) as in census metropolitan areas (+2.0 years).

Similar to demographic growth, there also appeared to be an East-West divide in the relative age of census metropolitan areas: the younger census metropolitan areas were mostly in Western Canada, while the census metropolitan areas with older populations were generally in the eastern part of the country.

On July 1, 2010, Saskatoon was the census metropolitan area with the youngest population (35.4 years) followed by Calgary (35.8 years), Edmonton (36.0 years) and Regina (36.9 years). Between July 1, 2001, and July 1, 2010, there was very little increase in the median ages of Saskatchewan's two census metropolitan areas. The increase was just 0.8 years for Saskatoon and 0.9 years for Regina. Edmonton was the only other Canadian census metropolitan area with an increase of less than one year in its median age. In each of the three census metropolitan areas, there were far more births than deaths. They also posted net gains in international, interprovincial and subprovincial migration. This was beneficial in every respect, helping to slow the population aging process.

Table 1
Percentage of population aged 14 years and under, 15 to 64 years and 65 years and over and median age, census metropolitan areas, July 1, 2010

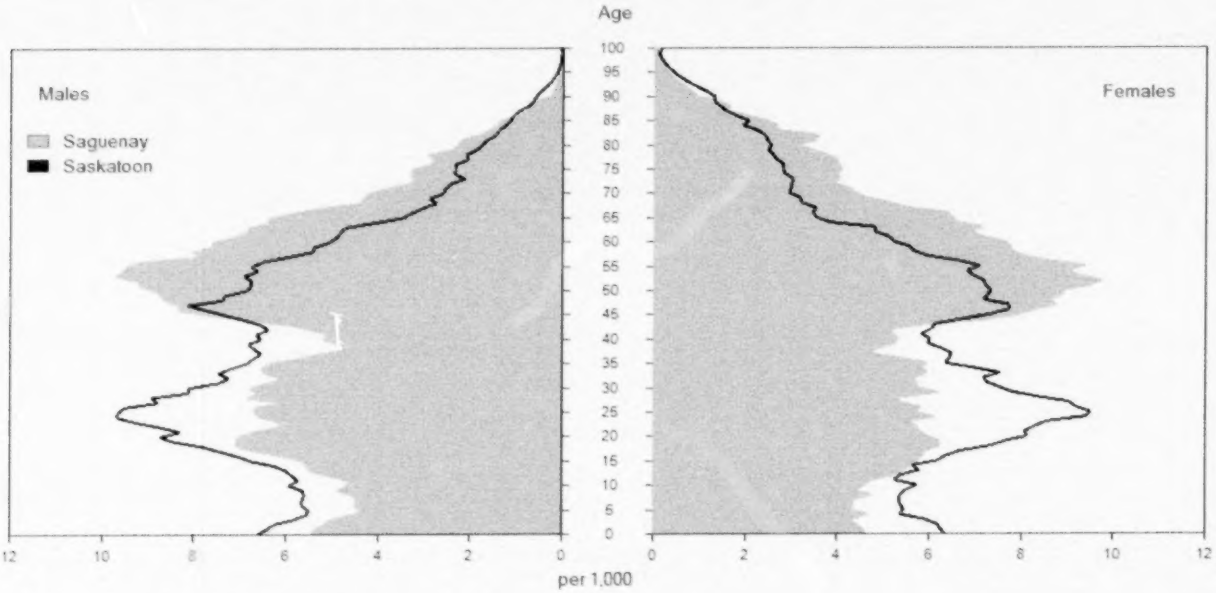
Region	14 years and under	15 to 64 years	65 years and over	Median age
	percentage			
Canada	16.5	69.4	14.1	39.7
All metropolitan areas	16.3	70.4	13.3	38.7
Non metropolitan areas	16.8	67.1	16.1	42.3
Saskatoon	17.3	70.3	12.3	35.4
Calgary	17.8	72.8	9.5	35.8
Edmonton	17.0	71.9	11.1	36.0
Regina	17.5	69.2	13.3	36.9
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	17.8	70.3	11.9	36.9
Toronto	17.1	70.7	12.2	37.9
Winnipeg	16.8	69.5	13.7	38.1
Oshawa	18.1	70.5	11.4	38.3
Abbotsford-Mission	18.3	66.5	15.2	38.4
Ottawa-Gatineau, Quebec part	17.1	71.9	11.0	38.6
Ottawa-Gatineau	16.4	71.3	12.3	38.7
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario part	16.2	71.1	12.8	38.7
Guelph	17.4	68.8	13.7	38.7
London	16.2	69.7	14.1	38.8
Vancouver	15.0	72.2	12.8	39.1
Montréal	16.2	69.7	14.2	39.2
Windsor	17.4	68.2	14.4	39.3
Halifax	14.7	72.6	12.7	39.3
Brantford	17.9	67.7	14.4	39.3
Hamilton	16.7	68.7	14.6	40.0
Sherbrooke	15.5	68.8	15.7	40.3
Moncton	14.8	70.0	15.2	40.7
St. John's	14.3	71.9	13.7	40.8
Saint John	16.0	68.9	15.1	41.1
Barrie	16.4	68.1	15.5	41.2
Kingston	14.6	69.1	16.2	41.2
Greater Sudbury	15.1	69.5	15.4	41.3
Québec	14.3	70.0	15.8	41.8
St. Catharines-Niagara	15.3	66.8	17.8	42.8
Thunder Bay	14.8	69.5	15.7	42.9
Kelowna	14.1	67.4	18.5	43.2
Victoria	12.6	69.2	18.1	43.5
Peterborough	13.7	66.9	19.4	44.7
Trois-Rivières	13.3	68.0	18.7	45.0
Saguenay	14.4	68.7	17.0	45.0

Note: Preliminary postcensal estimates.
Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Census metropolitan areas with young median ages also tended to have higher percentages of children. The census metropolitan areas with the highest percentages of the population aged 14 years and under were Abbotsford-Mission (18.3%), Oshawa (18.1%), Brantford (17.9%), and Calgary and Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo (each with 17.8%), higher than the national average of 16.5%.

The median age in the Saguenay and Trois-Rivières census metropolitan areas was 45.0 years, higher than in any other Canadian census metropolitan area. Comparing the population pyramids for Saguenay, one of the oldest populations, and Saskatoon, the census metropolitan area with the youngest age structure, is particularly striking (Figure 2). In addition to Saguenay and Trois-Rivières, the Québec and Sherbrooke census metropolitan areas had median ages above the Canadian average. The only census metropolitan areas in Quebec with median ages below

Figure 2
Population pyramid for the census metropolitan areas with the highest median age (Saguenay, Quebec) and with the lowest median age (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan) for July 1, 2010



Note: Preliminary postcensal estimates.
Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

the national average were Montréal and Ottawa-Gatineau.[1] In the Atlantic Provinces, three of the four census metropolitan areas had median ages higher than the Canadian average. The only exception was the Halifax census metropolitan area, whose median age was slightly lower (39.3 years) than the median age for Canada as a whole. In addition to having relatively high median ages, the Saguenay, Thunder Bay and Peterborough census metropolitan areas are also noteworthy for the pace at which they were aging. Between July 1, 2001, and July 1, 2010, the median age increased by 5.5 years in Saguenay, 4.7 years in Thunder Bay and 4.3 years in Peterborough. All three census metropolitan areas had fairly small populations; in fact, Peterborough and Thunder Bay were the least populous census metropolitan areas. Moreover, in both census metropolitan areas, there were more deaths than births, a sign of more rapid aging.

Census metropolitan areas with older median ages also tended to have higher shares of seniors. The census metropolitan areas with highest percentages of the population aged 65 years and over were Peterborough (19.4%), Trois-Rivières (18.7%), Kelowna (18.5%) and Victoria (18.1%). For Canada overall, 14.1% of the population were seniors on July 1, 2010.

Older census metropolitan areas also have a tendency to have more females in their populations owing to the greater longevity of women compared to men. The census metropolitan areas with the highest shares of females in their populations as of July 1, 2010 were Saint John (51.6%), Victoria (51.6%), Halifax (51.5%), Peterborough (51.4%) and Trois-Rivières (51.3%). In contrast, there were only three census metropolitan areas where males comprised just over half of the population: Calgary (50.9%), Edmonton (50.8%) and Abbotsford-Mission (50.1%).

1. However, a large part of the Ottawa-Gatineau census metropolitan area is located in Ontario.